

Serial No.: 10/726,380

REMARKS

A. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3 and 5-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,137,126 to Avanzino. Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 4, which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.¹ Claim 5 has been amended for consistency with the amendment to claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

B. Allowable Subject Matter

With appreciation, it is noted that the Examiner has indicated that the subject matter of claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. As indicated above, claim 4 has been rewritten in this manner by the amendment to claim 1.

C. Added Claims

Claims 21-35 have been added to recite additional novel and unobvious features of the present invention.

D. Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited

¹ It is noted that on page 4 of the Office action, it is claim 1 that is indicated as being allowable. Based on the Office Action Summary Sheet and the description under the Allowable Subject Matter heading on page 4, it has been assumed that claim 4 contains the allowable subject matter. If this assumption is not correct, clarification is respectfully requested.

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to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned representative to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 18-0988, our Order No. H1604.

Respectfully submitted,

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